

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14, 16-18, 20-27, and 30-32 were pending and rejected. In this response, claims 1, 5, 9, 12, 23, and 26 have been amended. Claims 3 and 30 have been canceled. No new subject matter has been added.

Allowable Claims

Applicants would like to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 30 has been canceled and independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 26 have been amended to include limitations of claim 30. Applicants submit that claims 1, 12, 23, 26, and the respective dependent claims are allowable. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections to the claims.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 9, 12-14, 20, 23-27, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2004/0244024A1 of Lind et al. (hereinafter "Lind") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6931659B1 of Kinemura (hereinafter "Kinemura") and U.S. Publication No. 2006/0120282A1 of Carlson et al. (hereinafter "Carlson"). Claims 5-7 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lind in view of Kinemura, Carlson, and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0058795A1 of Lansing (hereinafter "Lansing"). Claims 10-11, 21-22 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Lind in view of Kinemura, Carlson, and U.S. Publication No. 2003/0177502A1 of Kolze (hereinafter “Kolze”).

Independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 26 have been amended to include limitations of claim 30 which is allowable in the Office Action. Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 12, 23, and 26 are patentable for at least the above reason. Claims 2, 5-7, 9-11, 13-14, 16-18, 20-22, 24-25, 27 and 31-32 depend directly or indirectly from the independent claims are therefore also patentable for at least the reason in support of that base claims. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn as well.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Michael J. Mallie
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 36,591

1279 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale, California 94085-4040
(408) 720-8300